

ABSTRACT**Electronic Balloting**

Apparatus for, and method of, electronic balloting where the identities of
5 candidates are published together with respective telephone numbers. The
candidates may be, for example, acts in a talent competition broadcast as a
television programme, and the respective telephone numbers are published by
being included in the broadcast. Viewers can also send HTML pages containing
10 voting information via the Internet to a server, which provides a count of the votes
received for each candidate. A combiner is operative to retrieve the counts of
answered calls made to the published numbers and the counts of votes received at
the server, and to provide a ballot result. The ballot operator, e.g. the television
programme producer, makes a single access call by telephone, or by a web enquiry
page, and, after authorisation, is sent the ballot result.

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Figure 10.

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